

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for informing a recipient of an investment gift,
2 said system comprising:
3 a financial institution offering an investment plan;
4 a recipient receiving the investment plan;
5 an investor contributing to the investment plan for said recipient;
6 and
7 an information provider providing a message to said recipient of
8 said investor's contribution to the investment plan.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the message is a card.

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the message is an email
2 message delivered via the Internet.

1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the message is a voice
2 message generated by said information provider.

1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein said information provider
2 provides a plurality of messages, said investor selecting a message from
3 said plurality of messages for delivery to said recipient.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein said message includes a
2 textual message indicating that said recipient has been given an
3 investment gift from said investor.

1 7. The system of claim 7 wherein said message includes an
2 illustration.

1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein said message includes a
2 blank area allowing said investor to transfer personalized information to
3 said recipient.

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein said information provider
2 provides an electronic message via a web site for selection by said
3 investor, said electronic message being delivered to said recipient from
4 said financial institution to indicate that an investment gift has been
5 given by said investor to said recipient.

1 10. The system of claim 1 wherein said information provider
2 provides the message to the financial institution for distribution to the
3 recipient.

1 11. The system of claim 1 wherein the message includes a
2 specialized gift for said recipient.

1 12. A method of informing a recipient of an investment gift
2 from an investor, said method comprising the steps of:

3 providing, by an information provider, a message to a financial
4 institution offering an investment plan;

5 communicating, by the investor, with the financial institution;

6 offering, by the financial institution, an investment plan to the
7 investor;

8 selecting, by the investor, the investment plan as a gift to the
9 recipient;

10 offering a message created by the information provider to the
11 investor;

12 selecting, by the investor, the message from the financial
13 institution; and

14 sending the message to the recipient, said message indicating that
15 an investment gift has been given to the recipient.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of providing a
2 message to the financial institution includes providing a plurality of
3 messages to the financial institution.

1 14. The method of claim 12 wherein said step of selecting the
2 message from the financial institution includes selecting a message from
3 the plurality of messages from the financial institution.

1 15. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of providing a
2 message to the financial institution includes providing an electronic
3 message to the financial institution.

1 16. The method of claim 11 further comprising, after the step of
2 selecting the message from the financial institution, the step of adding
3 additional information to the message.

1 17. The method of claim 11 wherein the message is a card
2 having an illustration and a textual message indicating that a investment
3 gift has been given to the recipient.

1 18. The method of claim 11 further comprising, after the step of
2 communicating by the investor with the financial institution, the step of
3 displaying a message capable of being sent to a recipient of an
4 investment gift.

1 19. A system for informing a recipient of an investment gift,
2 said system comprising:
3 a financial institution offering an investment gift plan;
4 a recipient receiving the investment gift plan;
5 an investor contributing to the investment gift plan, said investor
6 designating said recipient to receive the investment gift plan; and
7 an information provider providing a message to said financial
8 institution;
9 whereby said financial institution offers a service of sending the
10 message provided by said information provider to said recipient, the
11 message informing said recipient of the investment gift being given by
12 said investor.